

Agency Scoping Packet



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / District 4
401 Main Street / Peoria, Illinois / 61602-1111
Telephone 309/671-3333

August 2, 2002

BUREAU OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES & PLANS - PHASE I
Illinois Route 29 Study
Peoria, Marshall, Putnam & Bureau Counties
Job No. P-94-009-01
Cat. No. 032469-00

Mr. Warren Goetsch
Division Manager, Natural Resources
Illinois Department of Agriculture
State Fairgrounds
P.O. Box 19281
Springfield, IL 62794-9281

Dear Mr. Goetsch:

The Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation has begun studies for a proposed highway improvement in the Illinois Route 29 corridor between Illinois Route 6 in Peoria County and Interstate Route 180 in Bureau County. This study will require Environmental Impact Statement. Enclosed is a Scoping Packet describing the proposed action, project area, and environmental issues. At this time we are requesting Illinois Department of Agriculture to be a cooperating agency.

Your agency's involvement should entail those areas under its jurisdiction and no direct writing or analysis will be necessary for the document's presentation. We look forward to your response to this request and your role as a cooperating agency on this project. If you have any questions about the project or our agencies respective roles and responsibilities, please contact Paula Green at (309) 671-3478.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

EST

By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development

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cc: FHWA (Attn: J.K. Stevenson)
BD&E (Attn: Larry Piche)
CH2M Hill
M. Lewis
P. Green



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / District 4
401 Main Street / Peoria, Illinois / 61602-1111
Telephone 309/671-3333

August 2, 2002

BUREAU OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES & PLANS - PHASE I
Illinois Route 29 Study
Peoria, Marshall, Putnam & Bureau Counties
Job No. P-94-009-01
Cat. No. 032469-00

Mr. Bernard Killian
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1340 North 9th Street
Springfield, IL 62702

Dear Mr. Killian:

The Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation has begun studies for a proposed highway improvement in the Illinois Route 29 corridor between Illinois Route 6 in Peoria County and Interstate Route 180 in Bureau County. This study will require Environmental Impact Statement. Enclosed is a Scoping Packet describing the proposed action, project area, and environmental issues. At this time we are requesting Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to be a cooperating agency.

Your agency's involvement should entail those areas under its jurisdiction and no direct writing or analysis will be necessary for the document's presentation. We look forward to your response to this request and your role as a cooperating agency on this project. If you have any questions about the project or our agencies respective roles and responsibilities, please contact Paula Green at (309) 671-3478.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

EST

By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development

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cc: FHWA (Attn: J.K. Stevenson)
BD&E (Attn: Larry Piche)
CH2M Hill
M. Lewis
P. Green



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / District 4
401 Main Street / Peoria, Illinois / 61602-1111
Telephone 309/671-3333

August 5, 2002

BUREAU OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES & PLANS -- PHASE I
Illinois Route 29 Study
Peoria, Marshall, Putnam & Bureau Counties
Job No. P-94-009-01
Cat. No. 032469-00

Mr. Steve Hamer
Program Mgr., Transportation Review
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Resource Review & Coordination
1 Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1274

Dear Mr. Hamer:

The Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation has begun studies for a proposed highway improvement in the Illinois Route 29 corridor between Illinois Route 6 in Peoria County and Interstate Route 180 in Bureau County. This study will require Environmental Impact Statement. Enclosed is a Scoping Packet describing the proposed action, project area, and environmental issues. At this time we are requesting Illinois Department of Natural Resources to be a cooperating agency.

Your agency's involvement should entail those areas under its jurisdiction and no direct writing or analysis will be necessary for the document's presentation. We look forward to your response to this request and your role as a cooperating agency on this project. If you have any questions about the project or our agencies respective roles and responsibilities, please contact Paula Green at (309) 671-3478.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eric S. Therkildsen".

By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development

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cc: FHWA (Attn: J.K. Stevenson)
BD&E (Attn: Larry Piche)
CH2M Hill
M. Lewis
P. Green

8-9-02 FWS cooperating letter.txt
From: Green, Paula A [GreenPA@nt.dot.state.il.us]
Sent: August 09, 2002 8:24 AM
To: 'Dan Dupies - IL 29'; 'Dick Stafford-IL 29'
Subject: FW: Illinois Route 29 EIS

FHWA's request for USFWS to become a cooperating agency.

Paula Green
Environmental Coordinator
Illinois Department of Transportation
401 Main Street
Peoria, IL 61602
309-671-3478
greenpa@nt.dot.state.il.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Stevenson, Jerry <FHWA> [SMTP:Jerry.Stevenson@fhwa.dot.gov]
<mailto:Jerry.Stevenson@fhwa.dot.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 08, 2002 2:18 PM
Cc: GreenPA@nt.dot.state.il.us; <mailto:GreenPA@nt.dot.state.il.us>;
Kocher, Arlene <FHWA>; Kohler, Jon-Paul <FHWA>; Piland, Janis <FHWA>;
McLaury, Kevin <FHWA>; Ward, Kevin <FHWA>
Subject: Illinois Route 29 EIS

The Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation has begun studies for a proposed highway improvement in the Illinois Route 29 corridor between Illinois Route 6 in Peoria County and Interstate Route 180 in Bureau County. This study will require an Environmental Impact Statement. Attached is a Scoping Packet describing the proposed action, project area, and environmental issues. At this time we are requesting that the USFWS be a cooperating agency. Your agency's involvement should entail those areas under its jurisdiction and no direct writing or analysis will be necessary for the document's presentation. We look forward to your response to this request and your role as a cooperating agency on this project. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities please contact me. Thank you.

J.D. Stevenson
Environmental Programs Engineer
FHWA - Illinois Division
3250 Executive Park Drive
Springfield, IL 62703
Phone: (217) 492-4638
Fax: (217) 492-4238
Jerry.Stevenson@fhwa.dot.gov <mailto:Jerry.Stevenson@fhwa.dot.gov>

8-9-02 EPA cooperating letter.txt
From: Green, Paula A [GreenPA@nt.dot.state.il.us]
Sent: August 09, 2002 8:25 AM
To: 'Dan Dupies - IL 29'; 'Dick Stafford-IL 29'
Subject: FW: The Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation has

FHWA's request for USEPA to become a cooperating agency.

Paula Green
Environmental Coordinator
Illinois Department of Transportation
401 Main Street
Peoria, IL 61602
309-671-3478
greenpa@nt.dot.state.il.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Stevenson, Jerry <FHWA> [SMTP:Jerry.Stevenson@fhwa.dot.gov]
<mailto:Jerry.Stevenson@fhwa.dot.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 08, 2002 2:11 PM
To: Westlake, Kenneth@epamail.epa.gov
<mailto:Westlake.Kenneth@epamail.epa.gov>
Cc: GreenPA@nt.dot.state.il.us; <mailto:GreenPA@nt.dot.state.il.us>;
Kocher, Arlene <FHWA>; Kohler, Jon-Paul <FHWA>; McLaury, Kevin <FHWA>; Ward, Kevin <FHWA>
Subject: The Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation has

The Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation has begun studies for a proposed highway improvement in the Illinois Route 29 corridor between Illinois Route 6 in Peoria County and Interstate Route 180 in Bureau County. This study will require an Environmental Impact Statement. Attached is a Scoping Packet describing the proposed action, project area, and environmental issues. At this time we are requesting that the USEPA be a cooperating agency. Your agency's involvement should entail those areas under its jurisdiction and no direct writing or analysis will be necessary for the document's presentation. We look forward to your response to this request and your role as a cooperating agency on this project. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities please contact me. Thank you.

J.D. Stevenson
Environmental Programs Engineer
FHWA - Illinois Division
3250 Executive Park Drive
Springfield, IL 62703
Phone: (217) 492-4638
Fax: (217) 492-4238
Jerry.Stevenson@fhwa.dot.gov <mailto:Jerry.Stevenson@fhwa.dot.gov>

From: Stevenson, Jerry <FHWA> [mailto:Jerry.Stevenson@fhwa.dot.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2002 7:06 AM
To: John.G.Betker@mvr02.usace.army.mil
Cc: GreenPA@nt.dot.state.il.us; Kocher, Arlene <FHWA>
Subject: RE: Illinois Route 29 EIS

Thanks John!

JD

>>> John.G.Betker@mvr02.usace.army.mil 08/13/02 11:10AM >>>

Jerry, we will participate as a cooperating agency to the extent of reviewing the documents for our Regulatory requirements and other areas of Corps involvement. We typically do not become a signatory cooperating agency in the document. When you get to the stage of routing your draft document or wish us to provide early regulatory/Corps review please contact me.

Thanks

John Betker

-----Original Message-----

From: Jerry Stevenson [mailto:Jerry.Stevenson@fhwa.dot.gov]

Sent: Thursday, August 08, 2002 2:18 PM

To: Betker, John G

Cc: Arlene Kocher; Janis Piland; Jon-Paul Kohler; Kevin McLaury; Kevin

Ward; GreenPA@nt.dot.state.il.us; STEVENSBH@nt.dot.state.il.us

Subject: Illinois Route 29 EIS

The Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation has begun studies for a proposed highway improvement in the Illinois Route 29 corridor between Illinois Route 6 in Peoria County and Interstate Route 180 in Bureau County. This study will require an Environmental Impact Statement. Attached is a Scoping Packet describing the proposed action, project area, and environmental issues. At this time we are requesting that the USACOE be a cooperating agency.

Your agency's involvement should entail those areas under its jurisdiction and no direct writing or analysis will be necessary for the document's presentation. We look forward to your response to this request and your role as a cooperating agency on this project. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities please contact me.

Thank you.

J.D. Stevenson

Environmental Programs Engineer

FHWA - Illinois Division

3250 Executive Park Drive

Springfield, IL 62703

Phone: (217) 492-4638

Fax: (217) 492-4238

Jerry.Stevenson@fhwa.dot.gov



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways / District 4
401 Main Street / Peoria, Illinois / 61602-1111
Telephone 309/671-3333

September 6, 2002

STUDIES & PLANS - PHASE I

Illinois Route 29 Study
Peoria, Marshall, Putnam & Bureau Counties
Job No. P-94-009-01
Catalog No. 032469-00

Mr. Kenneth Westlake
USEPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Street
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Westlake:

The Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation has begun studies for a proposed highway improvement in the Illinois Route 29 corridor between Illinois Route 6 in Peoria County and Interstate 180 in Bureau County. This study will require Environmental Impact Statement. Enclosed is a Scoping Packet describing the proposed action, project area, and environmental issues. At this time we are requesting USEPA to be a cooperating agency.

Your agency's involvement should entail those areas under its jurisdiction and no direct writing or analysis will be necessary for the document presentation. Your responsibility as a cooperating agency would entail the opportunity to review and comment on the preliminary DEIS prior to its release to the public. You have the right to expect that the EIS will enable you to discharge your jurisdictional responsibilities. Likewise, you have the obligation to tell us if, at any point in the process, your needs are not being met. We expect that at the end of the NEPA process when the ROD is issued, the EIS will satisfy NEPA requirements including those related to project alternatives, environmental consequences, and mitigation. Further, we intend to utilize the EIS and our subsequent decision statement as our decision-making documents and as the basis for permit applications.

Whether or not USEPA decides to become a cooperating agency, your agency will still be expected to participate in the NEPA/404 Merger process. Your concurrence role under this process for 1) purpose and need, 2) alternatives carried forward, and 3) selection of the preferred alternative will remain the same.

Mr. Kenneth Westlake
September 6, 2002
Page Two

The Illinois Route 29 expansion project from Illinois Route 6 to Interstate 180 will be a challenge to engineer while providing the best possible protection to environmental resources. In order to ensure that environmental issues are addressed as the project evolves, we intend to form a technical committee with representatives from the resource agencies. In addition to review of the DEIS, we are inviting USEPA to become a member of the technical committee. The committee will review preliminary alignments and address environmental issues as the project progresses. Although this will require a higher involvement and greater commitment of time on your agency's behalf, we think early input and guidance from your agency will offer the best opportunity to provide a balance between impacts, protection, and mitigation.

We look forward to your response to this request and your role as a cooperating agency on this project. If you have any questions about the project or our agencies respective roles and responsibilities, please contact Ms. Paula Green at (309) 671-3478.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer

By: Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
Program Development Engineer

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cc: Project File (P. Green)
M. Lewis
CH2M Hill
FHWA (Attn: J. D. Stevenson)
BD&E (Attn: Larry Piche)

**Scoping Summary
Illinois Route 29 Project
Peoria, Marshall, Putnam and Bureau Counties**

**Environmental Impact Statement
and
Combined Design Study
Job No. P-94-009-01
Job No. P-94-019-02**

**Prepared for:
Illinois Department of Transportation
District 4
Peoria, Illinois**

Prepared by:
CH2M HILL
Chicago, Illinois

July 2002

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide a description of the proposed Illinois Route 29 (IL 29) project between Illinois Route 6 (IL 6) north of Peoria and Interstate 180 (I 180) near Hennepin, and to discuss the scope of environmental issues to be addressed as part of the study. This document is available to federal, state and local governmental agencies, as well as organizations and individuals interested in providing comments on the issues that will be addressed as part of the study phase.

The concept of improving IL 29 north of Peoria has been under consideration for a number of years. Since the early 1970's, the following studies have been conducted in the project area:

- 1972 Corridor Report – Supplemental Freeway F-5 (F.A. Route 405) from Peoria to I-180
- 1986 Feasibility Study – Chillicothe Bypass and Illinois Route 29 Improvements
- 1995 Heart of Illinois Highway Feasibility Study

In May 2002, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) contracted CH2M HILL to conduct engineering and environmental studies along the IL 29 corridor. This study will conclude with the preparation of a Combined Design Report and an Environmental Impact Statement. These documents will present engineering and environmental issues related to the selection of the preferred alternative.

Comments on this scoping document and filing of interest for further involvement in the study process should be directed to:

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer
Illinois Department of Transportation
District 4
401 Main Street
Peoria, Illinois 61602-1111

Attention: Program Development

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is to improve existing IL 29 to a four-lane highway from IL 6 near Mossville in Peoria County to I-180 in Bureau County. From IL 6 to approximately Hart Lane north of Chillicothe, the proposed improvements would either follow existing IL 29 or proceed on a new alignment bypassing Chillicothe on the west. North of Chillicothe to I-180, the improvement would generally follow existing IL 29 with possible bypasses of Hopewell, Sparland, Henry, and Putnam.

The proposal is being considered to improve north-south highway access west of the Illinois River, enhance travel efficiency, and support economic development in the region. To achieve this end, the study will develop a preliminary range of alternative alignments. From this range of alternatives, a preferred alignment will be chosen and refined.

Description of the Project Area

Illinois 29 is located west of and generally parallel to the Illinois River, stretching from the north side of Peoria to I-180, a distance of approximately 35 miles (Exhibit 1). The IL 29 study area includes portions of Peoria, Marshall, Putnam, and Bureau Counties. Including Peoria, there are four principal communities in the study area with a combined population (2000 census) of approximately 122,000: Peoria, Chillicothe, Sparland and Henry. Smaller communities in the study area include Mossville, Rome, North Hampton, Hopewell and Putnam.

From Mossville to north of Henry, the project limits are located within a designated Resource Rich Area called the Peoria Wilds. The Peoria Wilds is one of the largest remaining oak woodlands in Illinois. Within the Peoria Wilds there are Nature Preserves, Natural Areas and IDNR owned properties.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Environmental Approach and Documentation

Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) will be prepared for the proposed improvement. Alignment studies will determine one preferred alignment location and address the type of facility, preliminary interchange geometrics, and preliminary intersection geometrics. Engineering and environmental conditions will be addressed in order to determine an alignment that meets the transportation needs of the region while minimizing the impacts to the environment. Potentially affected resources that will be evaluated in the EIS are described under "Environmental Resources" below. Preliminary measures to minimize harm, probable construction cost estimates and estimated right of way requirements will be developed as part of the study.

The scoping process undertaken for this project will include coordination with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, and review sessions as needed. To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed, and all substantive issues are identified, public involvement activities will be conducted as part of the study. Public information meetings, local government meetings, and newsletters will provide

opportunities for public involvement. A public hearing will be held at the time that the Draft EIS is made available for comment.

Environmental Resources

Social/Economic – Although the corridor passes through communities such as Chillicothe, Hopewell, Sparland and Henry, the majority of the study area is not significantly populated. The southernmost part of the corridor, which includes the City of Peoria, is the most populated area with a population of approximately 112,000 people.

The study will consider the potential impacts to low income and minority groups, as well as potential impacts to recreational land and potential displacements of homes and businesses.

Agricultural – The area is widely dedicated to agriculture and any alternative would result in the conversion of farmland. The study will consider the potential for diagonal severances, the creation of unfarmable parcels, the displacement of farmsteads, and adverse travel for farming operations.

Cultural – The project area is considered a high probability area for Native American sites. There is also the potential for affecting historic buildings. Avoidance and minimization of impacts to known historic and archaeological sites will be evaluated based on historical and archaeological studies that are currently underway in the project area.

Threatened and Endangered Species – The study will consider potential effects upon known state and federal threatened and endangered species. A number of state and federally protected plant, bird, mammal, and amphibian and reptile species are potentially located in the project corridor. The Illinois Natural History Survey began its four season field survey of the corridor in winter 2001 to identify protected species within the project's area of potential effect. An active Bald Eagle nest has been identified within the project corridor. A state-listed endangered plant, Queen-of-the-prairie, has also been identified. Avoidance of impacts will be considered throughout the study process.

Water Quality / Resources – The Illinois River runs parallel and close to IL 29. In addition, there are 11 stream crossings along the length of the project. Field surveys are underway to evaluate stream habitat in the project area, and stream quality rankings will be developed. Each of the alternatives will be researched for possible construction and runoff effects on water quality and resources.

Floodplains – Floodplains will be identified from published mapping. Alternatives will be assessed for their potential to cause transverse or longitudinal encroachments. The Illinois River floodplain is restricted to the east of the L&S Railroad, which is east of IL 29. The majority of the project's floodplain impacts will be at the 11 stream crossings mentioned above.

Wetlands – Impacts to wetlands are anticipated as part of this study. Wetlands along the project corridor are being delineated by the Illinois Natural History Survey as part of the study and will be incorporated with other environmental information into the project's GIS database. The study will seek to avoid impacts to wetlands and minimize impacts where avoidance is not possible.

Special Lands – The project area contains a number of special lands including: IDNR state fish and wildlife areas, U.S FWS Illinois River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge (Cameron Unit), IDNR designated Natural Areas, Land and Water Reserve areas, and Nature Preserves. The study will consider potential effects to these areas. Avoidance of impacts will be considered throughout the study process. In addition, all park and recreational properties which qualify under section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 will be identified.

Wildlife - To better understand the movement of wildlife between the bluff west of IL 29 and the Illinois River to the east and the impact of IL 29 on wildlife mortality, IDOT conducted a roadkill survey in the project area from July 2001 to June 2002. Surveys were conducted at 1 hour after sunrise the 1st working day of every week. The results of the survey will be used to determine animal pathways and potential locations of wildlife underpasses.

Other Issues – Other issues to be considered during the study include:

- Air quality
- Noise
- Special waste
- Construction impacts
- Energy impacts
- Visual impacts

ENGINEERING ISSUES

Early engineering activities include data gathering and developing a preliminary range of alternatives that will address the project need. The previous IL 29 studies mentioned in the "Introduction" will be revisited to determine which alignments could address transportation issues in the project area.

Listed below is a sample of the engineering issues that will be considered in the development and refinement of the project alternatives.

- **Freeway/expressway determination.** – Freeway and expressway designs will be evaluated for possible bypass alignments. If a combination of freeway and expressway facilities were recommended within the corridor, identifying a suitable area for the transition will be addressed. In addition, IDOT will have to balance meeting the transportation needs of the region and minimizing environmental and socio-economic impacts in deciding the type and width of design to be used. Median width, type, and the use of retaining walls will be investigated as a means to minimize impacts.
- **Interchange/intersection design** - Constraints posed by topography, existing development, and the need to avoid or minimize impacts to special lands such as nature preserves will complicate the design process at locations like IL 6, Cedar Hills Drive/Old Galena Road, Truitt Road, IL 17, and Kentville Road.
- **Retaining walls** - Long stretches of IL 29 may require retaining walls to accommodate a 4-lane facility while minimizing or avoiding impacts to adjacent land uses.

- *Unstable soils* - IDOT has hired the Illinois State Geological Survey to conduct geologic studies along IL 29. Areas of sliding soils and shallow groundwater that could complicate the design of a new road will be identified in the project area.
- *Former mines* - The Illinois State Geological Survey is also investigating the location of former mines adjacent to and beneath IL 29. Mined out areas have been identified in Hopewell and Sparland that may influence location/design decisions.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

AUG 29 2002



REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

B-19J

Joseph Crowe, P.E.
District Engineer, District 4
Illinois Department of Transportation
401 Main Street
Peoria, Illinois 61602-1111

Re: Scoping Comments for the Proposed Illinois Route 29 Project (Peoria, Marshall, Putnam and Bureau Counties, Illinois)

Dear Mr. Baker:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has received scoping information for the upcoming environmental impact statement (EIS) regarding the proposed Illinois Route 29 (IL-29) project. According to the scoping information, the proposed action is to improve existing IL-29 to a four-lane highway from Illinois Route 6 near Mossville in Peoria County, Illinois to Interstate Route 180 in Bureau County, Illinois. In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, we are responding with comments.

U.S. EPA recommends that the EIS be developed with consideration for the following points:

1. The EIS should include a "purpose and need statement," a clear and concise statement which summarizes the purpose and need of the project. The purpose and need section should clearly justify the reason(s) for an improvement in the study area, and it should provide enough background information to support the range of alternatives selected for evaluation.
2. The EIS should include a comprehensive analysis of a sufficient number of reasonable alternatives, so that it would be possible to effectively compare them based on environmental impacts and mitigation strategies. Reasonable alternatives should include transportation system management strategies, travel demand reduction strategies, improving alternate parallel roadways, and implementing a public transit system.
3. The EIS should have a section which describes the affected environment. This section should include a detailed description of the characteristics of the immediate and surrounding environment, including oak woodlands, savannas, seeps, fens, marshes, vegetation, residences, farmland, surface water resources (including water bodies in the

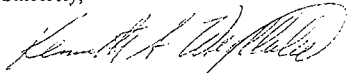
2

study area listed as impaired streams under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act), ground water resources, air quality, fish and wildlife populations, mussel populations, threatened and endangered species, land usage and zoning information, historical resources, and cultural resources. The EIS should describe the functions and values of these resources. For example, such functions may be associated with biodiversity, wildlife habitat, pollution filtration, or recreation. The EIS should also describe regulations which protect the affected environment from development.

4. Specifically with regard to the affected environment, the EIS should describe government-owned resources in the Peoria Wilds. These should include the Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge, Illinois Nature Preserves, Illinois Natural Areas, and other properties owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. This description should describe significant characteristics within each property, and regulations which protect these resources from development.
5. The EIS should commit to avoiding impacts to government-owned resources (listed above) and other significant resources in the Peoria Wilds. If impacts to such resources cannot be avoided, then they should be mitigated. In that case, the EIS should commit to a mitigation plan which describes each mitigation effort in detail, and quantifies the reduction of the adverse impact.
6. The EIS should describe all possible impacts caused by the reasonable alternatives (e.g., reduced biodiversity, destruction of wildlife habitat, impacts to fish and their habitat, mussel impacts, sedimentation, increased stormwater flow rates, groundwater pollution, construction activity within or in the vicinity of waterbodies, wetland filling, tree removal, traffic noise, residential and commercial relocations, and impacts to historical or cultural resources).
7. The EIS should estimate impacts caused by induced growth. Specifically, the EIS should forecast the amount of growth resulting from the proposed action in the study area, and the EIS should determine the type and amount of impacts caused by such growth. Induced growth impacts may include development in wildlife habitat, increased stormwater flow rates, petroleum-based leaks and spills, and air pollution sources.
8. The EIS should analyze potential cumulative impacts, if any. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. The EIS should describe the past, existing, and planned activity in the area which contribute to each cumulative impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scoping document. We look forward to reviewing the associated EIS. If you have any questions, please call Newton Ellens, of my staff, at 312-353-5562.

Sincerely,



Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief
Environmental Planning and Evaluation Branch
Office of Strategic Environmental Analysis

cc: Norman Stoner, Division Administrator
Illinois Division
Federal Highway Administration

